

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CU-04 PC-15 AID-20 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 007069

P 040035Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5238

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FIGUERES BLASTS UNION LEADERS

REF: SAN JOSE 3531

1. IN AN UNUSUAL MID-DAY RADIO ADDRESS PRESIDENT FIGUERES SPOKE TO THE NATION ABOUT SITET'S APPARENT THREAT TO PRECIPITATE A GENERAL STRIKE AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, OCTOBER 3. USING UNUSUALLY EMOTIONAL AND ANGRY TERMS, FIGUERES STRUCK OUT AT UNION LEADERS GENERALLY AND SITET LEADER GUIDO NUNEZ IN PARTICULAR. FIGUERES SAID THAT THE COUNTRY IS "LIVING IN MOMENTS OF CONVULSION PROVOKED BY IRRESPONSIBLE UNION LEADERS..." AND THIS MAY REQUIRE A "SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES." HE REPORTEDLY ADDED ANGRILY, "WE ARE THEN GOING TO SEE WHO'S RUNNING THINGS IN COSTA RICA." FIGUERES SINGLED OUT SITET'S LEADER GUIDO NUNEZ AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE UNION LEADERSHIP.

2. FIGUERES IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ON A NATIONWIDE TV HOOK-UP TONIGHT TO PRESUMABLY COMMENT ON THE PUNTARENAS DEMONSTRATIONS (SEE REFTTEL) AND DISCUSS

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FURTHER THE STRIKE ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: UNTIL FIGUERES' EMOTIONAL OUTBURST,
THE EMBASSY HAD NO INDICATION SITET WAS CLOSE
TO CALLING A GENERAL STRIKE. GENERAL STRIKE THREAT PROBABLY
DOES NOT EXIST BUT FIGUERES MAY HAVE BEEN SET
OFF BY SITUATION IN PUNTARENAS, AS WELL AS HIS FRUSTRATION OVER
THE APPARENTLY INSOLUBLE ICE/SITET CONFRONTATION.
VAKY

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